

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A string instrument including
a body and neck with a plurality of strings attachable to the neck and body; and
~~detachment means~~ a detachment assembly for detaching the neck from the
body, said detachment ~~means includes~~ assembly including a ~~clamping means which~~
~~has~~ a clamping arm extendable from either the neck or body and a securing ~~means~~
mechanism for securing the clamping arm on the other guitar portion; wherein the
clamping force produced from the assembled instrument is substantially parallel with
the longitudinal axis of the neck and body.
2. (currently amended) A string instrument as claimed in claim 1 wherein the
clamping arm extends from the neck and is securable by a ~~retaining means~~ retainer
fixed to the body.
3. (currently amended) A string instrument as claimed in claim 2 wherein the
clamping arm is a threaded rod with an adjustable nut and the threaded rod and nut is
secured by a body retaining ~~means~~ device which is a slotted member.
4. (currently amended) A string instrument including
a body and neck with a plurality of strings attachable to the neck and body; and
~~detachment means~~ a detachment assembly for detaching the neck from the
body, said detachment ~~means includes~~ assembly including a ~~clamping means which~~
~~has~~ a clamping arm engageable with the neck and actuated by a biased linkage ~~means~~,
said biased linkage ~~means is~~ being associated with the body; wherein the clamping
force produced from the assembled instrument is substantially parallel with the
longitudinal axis of the neck and body.

5. (currently amended) A string instrument as claimed in claim 4 wherein the biased linkage ~~means~~ includes a pivotal lever which is pivotally attached to the guitar body by an offset pivot.

6. (original) A string instrument as claimed in claim 5 wherein the lever is also pivotally connected to the clamping arm so that the clamping arm reciprocates when the lever moves about its pivot.

7. (currently amended) A string instrument as claimed in claim 5 wherein the biased linkage ~~means~~ includes a cam linkage between a lever and the clamping arm.

8. (currently amended) A string instrument as claimed in claim 5 wherein the biased linkage ~~means~~ is a quadrant linkage where a substantially triangular member is pivotally connected to the body at one apex while a lever is attached at a second apex and the clamping arm is attached at a third apex.

9. (currently amended) A string instrument including
a body and neck with a plurality of strings attachable to the neck and body; and
~~detachment means~~ a detachment assembly for detaching the neck from the body, said detachment ~~means includes~~ assembly including a ~~clamping means which~~
~~has~~ a clamping arm engageable with the neck and actuated by a biased linkage ~~means~~,
said biased linkage ~~means includes~~ including a lever pivotally connected to the body by an offset pivot and pivotally connected to the clamping arm so that the clamping arm reciprocates when the lever moves about its pivot, wherein the clamping force produced from the assembled instrument is substantially parallel with the longitudinal axis of the neck and body.

10. (original) A string instrument as claimed in claim 9 wherein the lever is connected to the lower side of the body and the lever and clamping arm are positioned within a recess in the lower side of the body.

11. (currently amended) A string instrument as claimed in claim 9 ~~or 10~~ wherein the clamping arm has an engagement portion for engaging the neck.

12. (original) A string instrument as claimed in claim 11 wherein the clamping arm is T-shaped.

13. (currently amended) A string instrument as claimed in claim 9 ~~or 10~~ wherein the neck has a clamp support for engagement with the clamping arm.

14. (original) A string instrument as claimed in claim 13 wherein the clamp support is attached to the underside (non-fret side) of the neck.

15. (original) A string instrument as claimed in claim 14 wherein the clamp support has a locating portion for locating the neck relative to the body prior to clamping; the locating portion includes a recess for positioning a locating projection on the body or clamping arm; the positioning of the locating projection within the locating recess locates the clamp support relative to the body so that the neck can be clamped to the body; said clamp support can also pivot about the locating projection positioned within the recess; when the clamp arm has engaged the clamp support, the lever is rotated backwards and the clamping arm clamps the clamp support and neck to the body, thereby producing a clamping force that is substantially parallel with the longitudinal axis of the neck and body and parallel with the tensioned strings.

16. (currently amended) A string instrument as claimed in ~~any one of the above mentioned claims~~ claim 1, wherein the string instrument is a guitar.

17. (currently amended) A string instrument including

a body and neck with a plurality of strings attachable to the neck and body; and
~~detachment means~~ a detachment assembly for detaching the neck from the body, said detachment ~~means includes~~ assembly including ~~a clamping means which~~ has a clamping arm engageable with the neck and actuated by a biased linkage ~~means~~, said biased linkage ~~means is being~~ associated with the body; wherein the clamping force produced from the assembled instrument clamps the clamping arm against the neck.

18. (currently amended) A string instrument including

a body and neck with a plurality of strings attachable to the neck and body; and
~~detachment means~~ a detachment assembly for detaching the neck from the body, said detachment ~~means includes~~ assembly including ~~a clamping means which~~ has a clamping arm engageable with the neck and actuated by a biased linkage ~~means~~, said biased linkage ~~means is being~~ associated with the body; the neck has a clamp support on the underside (non-fret side) of the neck for engagement with the clamping arm; wherein the clamping force produced from the assembled instrument clamps the clamping arm against the clamp support.

19. (currently amended) A guitar including

a body and neck with a plurality of strings attachable to the neck and body; and
~~detachment means~~ a detachment assembly for detaching the neck from the body, said detachment ~~means includes~~ assembly including ~~a clamping means which~~ has a clamping arm engageable with the neck and actuated by a biased linkage ~~means~~, said biased linkage ~~means is being~~ associated with the body; wherein the clamping force produced from the assembled instrument clamps the clamping arm against the neck.

20. (currently amended) A guitar including

a body and neck with a plurality of strings attachable to the neck and body; and
~~detachment means~~ a detachment assembly for detaching the neck from the
body, said detachment ~~means includes~~ assembly including ~~a clamping means which~~
~~has~~ a clamping arm engageable with the neck and actuated by a biased linkage ~~means~~,
said biased linkage ~~means is~~ being associated with the body; the neck has a clamp
support on the underside (non-fret side) of the neck for engagement with the clamping
arm; wherein the clamping force produced from the assembled instrument clamps the
clamping arm against the clamp support.